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honor and kill him." It would be still easier to suggest crime to those who love it, because there is no moral conscience to reject the suggestion. It is difficult to say, whether a person with a developed moral sense, could be directly so enfeebled or perverted as to commit a crime. But it is certain, that an honest man can, when carried along by an impulsive giddiness, delirious idea or hallucination. The nihilists, anarchists, socialists, revolutionists can become criminals by suggestion. The excited crowd, hearing the word, "spy," "traitor," become ferocious and bloody and rush upon some innocent person. It is a collective suggestion, a blind passion that carries the masses. The brute nature is unchained.

It has been objected, that there is not on record a case of crime committed under the influence of hypnotic suggestion. This is possible; hypnotizers are not generally criminals. But if a hypnotizer was a criminal, he would not tell it to the person he hypnotized, much less to anyone else. The truth is, suggestion plays a rôle in many crimes. There is hypnosis without sleep; suggestion can occur during the waking state; some persons are normally very suggestible; a word can produce in them analgesia, catalepsy, hallucinations, acts; the suggestion is made without their knowledge, and sometimes the suggester is unknown to them.

These ideas find their application: A young lady of good principles, honest and of sweet disposition marries. The first years are happy. A young man gains control of her. Her husband involved in difficulties for subsistence neglects her. Later her husband meditates vengeance against this young man, who, having seduced his wife, established a rival business, which prospered, while his own was in peril. To satisfy his vengeance he gained again the heart of his wife; and persuades her that his rival is the cause of their trouble; and hints that he ought to be killed. Docile and yielding to threats, she arranges a meeting with her lover under the pretext of renewing old friendships. She goes there; she enters the "Madeleine" to pray; then coldly, without emotion, she conducts her lover to her husband, who assassinates him. No regret, no remorse troubles her conscience. Nothing in her antecedents had indicated such monstrous moral perversity. Before the jury, the matron of her "pension" testified to her sweetness of disposition. Another testified she was like soft dough; she went to vice as well as to virtue. Her brain was open to all suggestions.

*L'Alcoholismo, sue conseguenze morali e sue cause.* Dr. NAPOLEONE COLAJANNI. Catania, 1887, pp. 203.

Alcoholism is most ancient; it has infected barbarous and civilized peoples; it was not a politico-social question. In modern times there is the greatest uncertainty concerning this question. The most fallacious statistical method to resort to is that of averages. For the quantity of wine produced in a country is given without deducting the part exported; and the comparison should be between the production of one year and the crime and suicide of the year following, in which ten twelfths is consumed, and not of the same year.

The official statistics of France and Italy indicate that alcoholism, as a direct motive of crime, is very, very limited. Comparing the first year of observation with the last, there is everywhere a perfect parallelism between the increase of alcoholism and that of crime and suicide; but the increase of crime is for the most part apparent, while that of suicide is real, continuous and without numerous oscillations, which characterize the increase of alcoholism and crime. On this account alcoholism increases in the inferior classes; suicide in the cultured classes. A slight increase in consumption of alcohol often corresponds to a large increase in crime, and *vice versa*. The maximum

or minimum of alcoholism does not correspond once with the maximum or minimum of crime and suicide. Alcoholic intoxication makes the sentiments of man neither worse nor better; but it lets them loose, it accents them, it reveals them in their naked truth. Well established cases of insane or criminal descendents through alcoholism do not authorize one to generalize this fact. There is wanting between alcoholism, crime and suicide constancy, regularity, and universality of relation, of coincidence and of succession; therefore the relation of cause and effect cannot be established between them, according to the laws of statistics.

Among the more authoritative writers, the opinion prevails, that alcoholic beverages, which are concentrated or of bad quality, injure the physical and moral health; but that the consumption of wine, (the most innocent of alcoholic beverages), day by day and year by year, cannot be shown to be a true and efficient cause of crime. The conditions that favor the increase of alcoholism are physical, economical and psycho-social. Climate is the most important cause of all; is constant and independent of human action.

All physiologists recognize that alcohol increases the circulation, excites the intellectual faculties, and aids and stimulates the action of the digestive organs, and that it produces these beneficial effects in the shortest time, and with the least cost. An inquiry into the conditions that favor or determine alcoholism admits but of one conclusion: that in its morbid conditions, it is a product of the social organization. When this organization is opportune and conformable to equity, it is more beneficial than the influence of climate. The principal remedy for drunkenness is of an economical and social order. We must interest the laborer in organizing his work better; we must favor for each family the possession, first of moveables, and then of a habitation; we must multiply indefinitely artistic distractions and encourage intellectual recreations.

On the whole, this author represents the opinion of Europe as to alcoholism. It seems to us, however, that the question may be somewhat different in America. For one of the most apparent and real differences is the fastness of growth, which has become rooted in the American nature. Thus as a nation we walk, run, travel, eat and drink faster than the Europeans. This drinking fast and often, without eating, and often when not thirsty, together with the unfortunate habit of treating, are conditions in our social organism, which make so much more drunkenness visible. It is also true that a majority of our drunkards are not Americans.

*Experiments as to the action of Alcohol on the Brain.* J. J. RIDGE. Physician to the London Temperance Hospital. Quarterly Journal of Inebriety, Jan., 1890.

A narcotic cannot become general in use without injuring the race. Any one of the narcotics habitually used so alters the nervous system as to cause uneasy sensations when abstained from. Alcohol is no exception to this rule. Insurance societies are proving what the influence of alcohol on the race is. As to the individual, it has been shown in a former paper that the sense of sight, common sensations and the muscular sense are blunted by alcohol in doses from two to four drachms. Dr. Hughlings Jackson agrees that those powers of mind developed last are the least stable and the first to be paralyzed by alcohol. Dr. Kraepelin in a series of experiments has shown that alcohol prolongs the simple reaction time, and the time for discrimination and decision. While then, the influence of alcohol upon the psychical processes makes them slower, the individual believes them to be much quicker. This illusion shows most rationally the necessity for abstinence. Alcohol,